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Most Recent Summaries

Admiralty, Commercial Law, Transportation

Camara de Mercadeo v. Vazquez, No. 13-2518

In a suit by shipping operators challenging a fee imposed by Puerto Rico to conduct business out of the Port of San Juan, the district court's decision in favor of Puerto Rico is affirmed where plaintiffs have failed to establish that the additional fee violates the dormant Commerce Clause of the US Constitution.

Labor & Employment Law

National Labor Relations Board v. NSTAR Electric & Gas Co., No. 14-1622

In an appeal by the NLRB seeking enforcement of an order that requires an electric and gas company to bargain with a union that seventeen of the company's dispatch-center workers voted to join, and a cross-petition for review of the Board's decision by the company, the Board's petition to enforce is granted and cross-petition denied where substantial evidence supports the Board's finding that the company failed to show that the workers at issue are either "supervisors" or "managers," rather than employees, even though the workers are highly skilled and charged with critical tasks.

Civil Rights, Labor & Employment Law

Gonzalez-Oyarzun v. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, No. 14-1954

In an employment dispute brought by an employee alleging violations of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. section 621, and various Puerto Rico statutes, the district court's dismissal of the dispute on the basis of a valid forum selection clause and simultaneous issuance of a declaratory judgment stating that the Seventh Amendment requires Puerto Rico to provide civil litigants with a jury trial, is vacated as to the declaratory judgment where it was in contravention of binding Supreme Court precedent.